
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Keaau middle college
2 high school was established in 2005 by a memorandum of
3 understanding between the University of Hawaii and the
4 department of education. The ensuing partnership between Hawaii
5 community college and Keaau high school was the first in the
6 state and replicated other successful relationships across the
7 nation.

8 The alternative high school was also developed with the
9 help of Bay Clinic, Inc., which received a federal grant to
10 renovate a 2,800-square foot space in Keaau Town Center to
11 create the Keaau Youth Business Center, an innovative technology
12 center which today houses a state-of-the-art multimedia lab,
13 sound recording studio, and certified mobile kitchen trailer.

14 The mission of Keaau middle college high school is to bring
15 high school seniors, who have ability but are at risk of failing
16 in the traditional high school environment, into an alternative
17 education environment from which they can graduate and earn both
18 high school and college credit. Students learn through a hands-



1 on, skills-based interdisciplinary curriculum that stresses
2 project-based learning, community engagement, entrepreneurial
3 training, and capstone assessment activities every semester.

4 Many of its students had not looked at higher education as
5 an option until they entered Keaau middle college high school.
6 Thusfar, Keaau middle college high school has graduated 80 per
7 cent of its participants, increasing Keaau high school's
8 graduation rate by ten per cent and college-going rate by seven
9 per cent.

10 By offering opportunities to youth who are typically
11 overlooked and under-challenged in the public school system,
12 Keaau middle college high school has increased the achievement
13 motivation, skills, and productivity of youth in rural low-
14 income communities, and increased the social capital and
15 economic development capacity of these communities.

16 However, the federal funds used to establish Keaau middle
17 college high school are due to lapse in May 2008. Keaau middle
18 college high school is already trying to secure funding through
19 county funds and grants to continue its important mission.

20 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support
21 the continued operations of Keaau middle college high school.



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1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to support
4 the operations of Keaau middle college high school as follows:

5 (1) \$50,000 to establish two part-time skills trainer
6 positions to teach culinary arts and digital media
7 arts;

8 (2) \$30,000 for rent and utilities costs; and

9 (3) \$20,000 for supplies and equipment.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
11 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

13 INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 22 2008



Report Title:

Keaau Middle College High School; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to support the continued operations of Keaau Middle College High School.

